

News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Backs Bipartisan Bicameral Intelligence Reform Proposal

Urges Swift Action on Recommendations of September 11th Commission

Washington, DC – Rep. Kind, together with 25 Democrat and Republican Members of Congress, introduced an intelligence reform bill today that presents the 9/11 Commission's recommendations in legislative form. The 9/11 Commission Implementation Act is the companion bill to the bipartisan proposal introduced in the Senate by Senators Joseph Lieberman and John McCain and is endorsed by the full commission. Kind also called on House leadership to work in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation to improve the nation's intelligence system as soon as possible.

"The 9/11 Commission has done its job. Now, we need to do ours," said Rep. Kind. "That's why I have joined with a bipartisan bicameral coalition of my colleagues to introduce legislation that would redress the deficiencies in our intelligence system so that we can ensure a tragedy like the September 11th attacks never occurs again."

The commission report issued 41 recommendations to help prevent future terrorist attacks, including details of a global strategy and government reorganization necessary to implement that strategy. The bill would enact sweeping changes in how intelligence agencies and the Department of Homeland Security operate and would follow the blueprint set by the 9-11 Commission to:

- Create a strong National Intelligence Director
- Create a National Counterterrorism Center
- Improve Congressional oversight
- Encourage greater outreach to the Arab & Muslim world
- Ensure an integrated terrorist watch list
- Strengthen the FBI's ability to collect and analyze domestic intelligence
- Create an integrated strategic plan for aviation and transportation security
- Improve airline passenger and baggage screening
- Improve coordination between FAA and military authorities
- Provide for the increased assignment of radio spectrum for safety purposes
- Protect civil liberties
- Make the Select Committee on Homeland Security permanent

"This legislation is supported by Members in both chambers on both sides of the aisle and fully endorsed by the entire 9/11 Commission," said Rep. Kind. "Now that Congress has reconvened and we have solid reform legislation there is no excuse for further delay. Time is not on our side. I urge my colleagues to join us in our efforts to strengthen America's security with a comprehensive overhaul."